

CBM WATER

I will forward to you a request for an amendment to the water development legislation to support a Level II feasibility study of moving treated coal bed methane water from the Powder River Basin to the Platte River. This study will be conducted in conjunction with companies controlling a substantial portion of the coal bed methane leases in the Basin.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Our policy regarding energy development is straightforward. We appreciate the role our state plays in the national energy picture and we appreciate the opportunities that energy revenue creates for the state. Thus we welcome energy development – provided that it's done right, provided that our laws and regulations are honored and provided the scale of development is matched by state monetary support for impacted communities.

Energy production in its many forms – coal, coal beneficiation, coal gasification, clean coal, electricity, deep gas, coal bed natural gas, wind power, ethanol, conventional oil, enhanced oil recovery and uranium – sparks conversations from the coffee shop to the boardroom throughout Wyoming. Global markets in an energy-hungry world drive, with equal vigor, financial hardship for Wyoming consumers and impatient interest in producing the resources located within our borders.

Our continuing struggle is to take full advantage of the opportunities and to minimize the potentially adverse impacts. And this current energy expansion has a full measure of both.

I encourage your support of the statutory and budget proposals to move our clean coal and enhanced oil recovery efforts forward. In this connection I would draw special attention to the proposed Energy School at the University of Wyoming. We have worked for many years to move this idea to reality. I ask you to pass this legislation with a restriction limiting the university's ability to spend the funds pending development by the advisory committee of a Strategy for Excellence to guide the development of the school.

Likewise I thank the combination of citizens, public interest groups, and industry for supporting a package of technology, monitoring, modeling and personnel at the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Engineers Office and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission. These agencies are the fulcrum upon which the balance between protecting our lifestyle and encouraging development will be struck.